

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 5, 7 - 12, and 14 - 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by PRICE et al. The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over PRICE et al. in view of LEVIN et al. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Independent claims 1, 14, and 17 define *preprogrammed* designer tool kit modules (DTKs) as having different interactive voice response functionality. Independent claims 7, 16, and 20 now define the feature specific node types as being preprogrammed. Exemplary preprogrammed modules/nodes include complex functionality, such as names directory functionality, automatic attendant functionality, zip code locator functionality, etc.

PRICE et al. merely teach an IVR application including different menus or voice prompts. The user has the ability to change the voice prompts. The functionality provided by the menus is limited in the PRICE et al. system to playing prompts and recording user input. *See* col. 4, lines 12 - 18. In fact, PRICE et al. suffer from the exact problem described in paragraph 0003 of the present specification. That is, only simple changes are permitted. Moreover, PRICE et al. state at col. 5, lines 2 - 10 that computer code is created.

In contrast, the claimed invention requires preprogrammed modules or nodes. The fact that preprogramming is required means that the user cannot modify the voice prompts, and that the computer code has already been created. For example, if the user employs the names directory, the complex preprogrammed names directory functionality will be used. Not only do PRICE et al. not teach or suggest such complex/sophisticated nodes (i.e., sub-applications), PRICE et al. are limited to the recording of different voice prompts. Thus, PRICE et al. teaches creation of applications, whereas the claimed invention does not permit creation of applications, but rather uses a library of preprogrammed application.

In addition, the claims recite different types of nodes. For example, claim 1 recites standard nodes and DTK nodes, each DTK module having a different IVR functionality.

Even if play and record are treated as different IVR functionalities, PRICE et al. do not teach or suggest another node type, such as the claimed standard nodes.

Thus, for at least these reasons, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of independent claims 1, 7, 14, 16, 17, and 20 and provide an indication of their allowability.

Dependent claims 2 - 6, 8 - 13, 15, 18, 19, and 21 - 26 are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

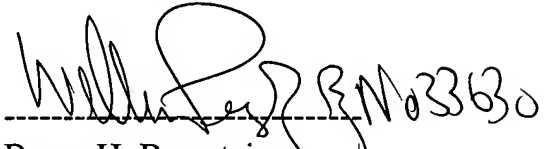
The above amendments have been presented merely for the purpose of clarification, and not to overcome the applied prior art. Accordingly, no estoppel is deemed to result from any of the present amendments.

Entry of the present amendment is believed to be proper even though this case is subject to a final rejection. That is, no new issues are believed to be raised that would require further search or consideration by the Examiner.

P21784.A05

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
M. PLAN



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

October 19, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191